

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 TRSE-00 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 /098 W

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P R 300330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4227

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 5516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, SN

SUBJECT: GSP CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND SINGAPORE

REF: (A) STATE 289331 (B) STATE 303307

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO FORMULATE CUSTOMS REGULATIONS ON GSP SO AS TO ACCOMMODATE SINGAPORE'S UNIQUE ENTREPOT FUNCTION. WE BELIEVE REVISED CUSTOMS REGULATIONS COULD GO FAR IN MEETING GOS REQUIREMENTS.

2. E/C COUNSELOR ON DECEMBER 26 PROVIDED TEXT OF PARAGRAPHS 1, 2, AND 3 OF REF B TO MFS OFFICIAL TAN LING LING. E/C COUNSELOR ALSO MADE ADDITIONAL POINTS IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 OF REF. B, STRESSING THAT CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AS FORMULATED PROVIDED MAXIMUM RELIEF POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME. MISS TAN, WHO HAD PASSED COPY OF GOS AIDE MEMOIRE TO EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 28, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SINGAPORE, BUT DID NOT VENTURE OPINION WHETHER CURRENT COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS COULD BE SO ADAPTED AS TO COMPLY WITH FREE TRADE ZONE PROVISIONS. ACCORDING TO MISS

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TAN, THE MFA HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM THE SINGAPORE EMBASSY

IN WASHINGTON AS OF DECEMBER 26.

3. EMBASSY NOW PLANS TO TRANSMIT AMBASSADOR DENT'S LETTER (REF. A) AND AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTING APPOINTMENT WITH FINANCE MINISTER HON SUI SEN TO MAKE PERSONAL PRESENTATION. IN ADDITION TO EXTRA LANGUAGE AUTHORIZED BY PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF. B, EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION TO INSERT FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN DENT LETTER:

(A) AS A NEW THIRD PARAGRAPH: "IN ADDITION, SPECIFICALLY TO ACCOMMODATE SINGAPORE'S UNIQUE ENTREPOT ROLE, GSP CUSTOMS REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO PERMIT ELIGIBLE GSP ITEMS TO QUALIFY FOR PREFERENTIAL CUSTOMS TREATMENT IF SHIPPED TO THE U.S. FROM ONE BENEFICIARY COUNTRY THROUGH A FREE TRADE ZONE IN ANOTHER BENEFICIARY COUNTRY. THE REGULATIONS AS FORMULATED PERMIT ELIGIBLE ARTICLES TO UNDERGO A RESTRICTED NUMBER OF OPERATIONS, INCLUDING TESTING FOR QUALITY CONTROL PURPOSES AND PACKING FOR RETAIL SALE; THEY SHOULD PROVIDE A MEANS BY WHICH SINGAPORE'S ENTREPOT TRADE CAN CONTINUE WITHOUT DISRUPTION."

(B) ADDITIONAL SENTENCE INSERTED IN MIDELE OF FORMER PARAGRAPH 3 AFTER SENTENCE "THIS OF COURSE, DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY GROWTH IN THESE IMPORTS.": "IN THE LONGER RUN, SINGAPORE COULD BENEFIT FROM EXPANDING ITS EXPORT EFFORTS TO INCLUDE MANY OF THE 2,700 ITEMS WHICH ARE ON THE GSP LIST, BUT WHICH SINGAPORE HAS HITERTO NOT EXPORTED TO THE U.S."

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO CALL ON MINISTER HON EARLY IN WEEK OF JANUARY 5, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REACTION TO TEXTUAL CHANGES PROPOSED IN FORGOING PARAGRAPH BY COB FRIDAY, JANUARY 2.  
HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS), FREE TRADE AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 289331, 75 STATE 303307  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GSP CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND SINGAPORE  
**TAGS:** ETRD, SN, US, MTN, (DENT, FREDERICK B)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006